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A SOUTHERN ACCOUNT.—"On Saturday morning last a detachment of the cavalry of Gen. Wade Hampton, under the command of the general in person, made a rich haul on a Yankee train in the neighborhood of Occoquan. They captured a train of wagons twenty-seven in number, laden with the choicest articles for the gay Christmas season. Many of the articles captured were labeled "Christmas presents for Gen. Burnside," and consisted of fine brandies, cigars and wines, and indeed everything calculated to elevate the fallen spirits of the Yankee chieftain. Besides these there was a good supply of sutlers' stores, embracing boots and shoes, gauntlets, and nearly every other article necessary for the comfort of man during the cold season.

In addition, one hundred and seventy Yankees who were guarding the train were made prisoners and arrived in this city yesterday. They also captured the notorious John C. Underwood, who has been acting as a pilot for the Yankees since the war commenced, in the counties of Fauquier, Prince William and others on the Potomac border. When discovered he was closely concealed in a lady's wardrobe, with the door locked. The proprietress of the wardrobe was very indignant at the soldiers who broke open the door and dragged Underwood from his concealment."—*From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 24.*

PROPOSITION FOR A NATIONAL CONVENTION.

—The Union Democratic Association of New York held a large meeting on Tuesday evening. Hon. James Brookes, member of Congress elect, presented some resolutions to be submitted to this meeting, and to both the North and South. He selected as a medium through which to convey these resolutions, a State which has never been alien either to the North or the South, the State of New Jersey.

Resolved, That the State of New Jersey, through her State government, be respectfully requested to interpose, in order to arrest the existing civil war:

1. By inviting the non-slaveholding States and the loyal slaveholding States—Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri—to meet in Convention, in Louisville, Ky., on the day of February next.

2. By requesting the permission of the President of the United States to send commissioners to Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee to invite them also to meet in like National Convention; and.

3. That the President be requested by the State government of New Jersey to declare an amistice with or for such State or States as may accept this call for a National Convention.

That a committee be created, on the part of this Association, to present these resolutions to the Governor and Legislature of New Jersey, and to urge upon that State, in consideration of her revolutionary history and patriotic associations, she is entitled thus to lead in a National Convention for the restoration of the Union of these States.

These resolutions, it is stated, were greeted with a torrent of cheers, and it was asked that they be passed upon immediately. The President therefore put the question, and they were carried unanimously.

FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

Advices have been received in Philadelphia that the Federal army in Tennessee has moved on the Confederate forces, who fell back, the rear guard skirmishing with the Federal advance. On Monday night Gen. Rosecrans's advance was at Murfreesboro', with the Confederates in full view, drawn up in line of battle. An engagement was expected to take place on Tuesday. A later dispatch says that the Federal army made a general advance on Monday, the Confederates falling back eight miles. Some fighting took place near Nolinsville, in which the Confederates lost one gun. At last accounts a general engagement was imminent.

A fight occurred at Rolling Fork, Ky., on Monday between a Federal force and the Confederates under Gen. Morgan, in which the latter were defeated, retreating towards Bardstown. The railroad between Louisville and Nashville has been so badly damaged that it will require a month to reconstruct it.

A dispatch from General Curtis, dated Van Buren, Arkansas, December 28, says that he was on that day shelling the Confederates on the opposite side of the river, and if they did not fall back during the night, he intended to make an effort the next day to cross and give them battle.

A Fight of Six Hour's Duration.

The New York Times' special correspondent with Gen. Sigel's corps, sends some additional statements relative to the attack at Dumfries:

"On Saturday last Stuart crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford, about six miles east of the Orange and Alexandria railroad, with six thousand men and six pieces of artillery. He proceeded to Stafford Church, where he divided his force into three columns, each having two pieces of artillery; and thus formed, marched upon Dumfries, where he arrived at about 11 o'clock A. M. Taking a position on the hills commanding the town, he commenced throwing shells, and succeeded in demolishing the building lately occupied by Gen. Sigel, and several other houses. The place was occupied by three regiments of infantry, four hundred cavalry and two pieces of artillery of Gen. Slocum's corps, and under the immediate command of Col. Canby. The fight lasted about six hours, when the Confederates retired defeated. The Federal loss was four killed and eight wounded; the Confederates, so far as known, had ten killed and sixteen wounded."

The year just closed is supposed to be the most prosperous in the history of California, as far as mercantile and manufacturing interests are concerned. The agricultural and mining interest has never been in a better condition. The city and streets are increasing rapidly in population and wealth.

The King and Queen of the Sandwich Islands were confirmed at the so-called Reformed Catholic Church on Nov. 28. Bishop Stanley and the missionaries performed the ceremony.

Both Houses of the Legislature of Missouri completed their organization, by the election of all the emancipation candidates.

Intervention.

During Mr. Monroe's Administration a Treaty was made between the United States and Spain, through her Minister, Don De Onis, for the purchase of Florida, and settlement of claims of American citizens, on that Government. The United States Government ratified the Treaty, but Spain declined to do so for over a year, on the ground that this Government had acknowledged the independence of her revolted American Colonies. The United States insisted on her ratification of the Treaty, and threatened a declaration of war in case of longer refusal. Hostilities seemed imminent, and the President recommended reprisals for claims against Spain, as provided for in the Treaty.

At this juncture, the three great Powers, England, France and Russia, offered their mediation; which was accepted both by the United States and Spain. The latter was thereby induced to ratify the Treaty, which settled the whole difficulty. See Annals of Congress 1820, 1821 and 1822.

A very remarkable talking automaton is exciting the curiosity of the Parisians. It has been constructed by M. Faber, late Professor of Mathematics at a German university, and is stated by our contemporary Cosmos, to be by far the most successful effort that has yet been made to imitate the human voice. The figure, which is that of a woman, is exhibited on the Boulevard.

The funeral of Major Geo. W. Pettigrew, an officer of the Confederate army, who was wounded and captured at the battle of Fredericksburg, and died in the Patent Office Hospital, Washington, on Monday night, took place yesterday afternoon from Masonic Hall, and was attended by a large number of persons, including many ladies.

Gold, yesterday, in New York, 133½.

New Year's day has been very peaceable. It is not a Virginia holyday.

The total loss by the destruction of Ford's Theatre, Washington, is estimated at \$25,000. Miss Ritchings' loss is estimated at \$4,000.

The Paris correspondent of the London Morning Herald writes as follows:—"It is reported that the French Government has received very important dispatches from Baron Mercier, the French Minister at Washington. What may be their nature I can not say, but I have been informed that the wholesale confiscation of the property of planters of French origin in Louisiana, by Gen. Butler, has excited the greatest indignation in high quarters."

A number of letters are daily received at the Dead Letter Office, in Washington, with internal revenue stamps pasted on them, the writer supposing these stamps are good for postage. All letters with such stamps are not sent to their destination, but to the Dead Letter Office as are all other letters not prepaid with a postage stamp.

In Norfolk on Tuesday, Miles Taylor was stabbed by a man named Williams, who was immediately arrested.